



The Biddeford Beat

THE CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MONDAY, JULY 29, 2019

VOLUME 19.30

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are located in the Council Chambers at City Hall unless otherwise stated. Live meetings can be viewed on the [City of Biddeford website](http://www.biddefordmaine.org/) or on the Public Access Channel.

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| Monday | July 29, 2019 |
| 6:00 p.m. | Downtown Committee Meeting (Live) |
| Thursday | August 1, 2019 |
| 5:30 p.m. | Pool Street Paving Public Hearing |
| Monday | August 5, 2019 |
| 5:30 p.m. | Downtown Development Commission @ 2 nd Floor Conference Room |
| Tuesday | August 6, 2019 |
| 5:00 p.m. | Finance Committee Meeting (Live) |
| 6:00 p.m. | City Council Meeting (Live) |
| Wednesday | August 7, 2019 |
| 6:00 p.m. | Planning Board (Live) |

All meetings are subject to change. [Click here](#) to view updates on the full city calendar.

POOL STREET PAVING PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Biddeford is hosting a public hearing regarding the Pool St. Paving Project on August 1 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. Pool St. will be paved from Parkside Dr. to the eastern end of Decary Rd.

AIRPORT OPEN HOUSE

August 17, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for the Biddeford Municipal Airport "Open House" event! There will be planes on display, helicopter and plane rides, food and lots more. The Airport's community partners and businesses will also be attending the event and setting up displays. Admission to the event is FREE! Items such as food, aircraft rides, raffle tickets and souvenirs will be able for purchase.

RECYCLING TIP OF THE WEEK

Food waste does not belong in the recycling bin!

Food waste and liquids are common contaminants in the curbside recycling program.

- **Food scraps belong in your green trash can.**
- Empty any remnants of beverages from bottles before you recycle them.
- Make sure all leftover food has been washed out of containers that you plan to recycle.
- Greasy pizza boxes, greasy takeout containers, and used paper plates don't belong in the recycling bin.

Did you know that Biddeford Public Works offers a compost drop-off program in partnership with We Compost It? This program is an environmentally friendly way to keep your food waste out of the waste stream. Simply collect your food scraps in any container and dump them in the compost bins at the Recycling Center during regular operating hours. Compost pails for home use are available for purchase from Public Works for \$8.50, but they are not required for participation in the program. [Click here](#) for more information and a list of accepted food waste.

Thank you for doing your part to reduce recycling contamination in Biddeford!



FISCAL YEAR 2020 TAX RATE SET

The median single-family homeowner in Biddeford can expect a lower tax rate than anticipated for Fiscal Year 2020 thanks to an increase in state revenue sharing and an overall increase in property values.

At their July 16 meeting, the Biddeford City Council set the tax rate for Fiscal Year 2020 at \$19.98 per \$1,000 in taxable value. At this tax rate, the owner of the median single-family home valued at \$227,100 can expect to pay \$4,145.85 in property taxes this year when factoring in the Homestead Exemption.

"When the City Council approved the Fiscal Year 2020 budget in May, we predicted a \$20.06 tax rate. We are pleased to have been able to reduce that number by \$0.08 to lower the impact on property taxpayers without any reductions in the originally approved budget," said Mayor Alan Casavant. "We are especially grateful for the work our state delegation and Governor Janet Mills accomplished this year to help provide property tax relief."

Previously, state revenue sharing was funded at 2%, but the State of Maine budget funded revenue sharing at 3% for this year. This increase will bring an additional \$495,000 of revenue to Biddeford in Fiscal Year 2020. This additional revenue saves the median single-family homeowner \$41.50 on their tax bill.

Additionally, the amount of taxable value in Biddeford increased by \$22.6 million since last year. This is due in part to state changes to the Business Equipment Tax Exemption program, but also to an increase in overall property values in Biddeford. City officials had originally estimated a \$12.5 million increase in taxable value when the budget was first presented to the City Council.

"Because of these changes, Biddeford's tax rate increased just 1.4% this year, while most communities of comparable size around the state saw a larger increase of up to 5% in some cases." City Manager James Bennett said. "We are proud to have kept property tax bills stable this year while responding to the needs of the community."

[Click here](#) for more information about the Fiscal Year 2020 budget.

DONATION TO NEW CHEERING PROGRAM

Thank you to the McCurry family for their generous donation of \$2,500 to purchase mats for the new cheering program coming to Biddeford Recreation. We are all looking forward to this new addition! Pictured left to right are Robin, granddaughter and cheerleader Keyarah, Council President John McCurry, and Mayor Alan Casavant.



ENHANCED BUS ROUTES BEGIN AUGUST 1

On August 1, Biddeford Saco Old Orchard Beach Transit (also known as **ShuttleBus-Zoom**) will be launching its enhanced routes and expanded service. The Saco Transportation Center will serve as the operational hub for all routes and connections. Biddeford Saco Old Orchard Beach Transit's customer service staff will be occupying office space inside the transportation center to better service their customer's needs. All local routes, as well as the Portland InterCity run, will begin and end their 75-minute routes at the Saco Transportation Center. Zoom Turnpike Express Service will remain unchanged.



Routes will be color coded for ease of identification. A new route will service the Saco Industrial Park, Mill Brook Business Park and Route 1. The Portland Intercity run will become a more direct route using Route 1 through Saco and Scarborough on its way to Campus Drive, Maine Mall, Portland Greyhound Station and Congress Street. Biddeford routes will be expanded to include more locations including Morin Street in the Biddeford Industrial Park and Route 1 to service the proposed York County Courthouse. Old Orchard Beach's service will be expanding to cover Ross Road, Cascade Road and Milliken Street. Details of all routes, stops and maps will soon be available online at www.shuttlebus-zoom.com or hardcopies will be available on the buses and at the ShuttleBus-Zoom office.

BSOOB Transit staff will be available throughout the day to answer questions from customers. For additional information and updates, visit www.shuttlebus-zoom.com or call 207-282-5408. Questions? Feedback? cpendleton@shuttlebus-zoom.com.

Biddeford's 12th Annual Family Fun Festival

(Formerly the Bacon St. Festival)

Sunday, August 4th from 12-4 pm
39 Sullivan Street in the St. Andre's Senior Housing Parking Lot

Food/Entertainment/Music/Prizes/Games



Free!



Rain or Shine!



For more information on the festival, a schedule of events, or a sponsors list, please visit www.biddefordmaine.org or contact Linda Waters at Linda.Waters@biddefordmaine.org

FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

- 12:00 p.m. - Welcome from Biddeford Police and Fire Departments and declaration of festivities as part of National Night Out 2019
- 12:30 p.m. - Crowning of King and Queen of Bacon Street
- 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. - Pony Rides
- 2:00 p.m. - Presentation from Maine Search and Rescue Dogs on how to have yourself found
- 3:00 p.m. – Decorate Yourself Contest (under 18)

All Day (12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

- Entertainment: Music by Girls Just Want to Have Fun and Ketch Fish; Magician
- Petting Zoo; Rock Climbing Wall; Pedal Cart Races; Video Game Arcade Truck
- Biddeford Fire Department Smoke House
- Visit from Costume Characters/The Furrries
- Bouncy House with Water Slide
- Mission Hill Community Garden Demonstrations
- Activity Tables and Face Painting
- Candy and Popcorn



CALEA ACCREDITATION REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT



On July 17, the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®) notified Chief Roger Beaupre that it had completed the Year 1 annual accreditation review and assessment of the Biddeford Police Department. CALEA reported that BPD was found to be in compliance with the reviewed national standards without exception.

The Biddeford Police Department was awarded its first national accreditation at the CALEA conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan on July 28, 2018. The award was the culmination of the voluntary accreditation process started during 2016. During the initial review and assessment by CALEA, BPD was found to be in compliance with all the applicable national standards without exception.

BPD is one of 732 federal, state, county, and municipal law enforcement agencies nationally accredited. In the State of Maine, only five other law enforcement agencies have been awarded national accreditation.

Accredited agencies must be reaccredited every four years. During the four year cycle, agencies must annually provide CALEA with status reports, update agency information and statistical tables, and complete a web-based assessment to verify continued compliance to the national standards.

About CALEA

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., (CALEA®) was created in 1979 as a credentialing authority through the joint efforts of law enforcement's major executive associations. The purpose of CALEA's Accreditation Programs is to improve the delivery of public safety services primarily by: maintaining a body of standards, developed by public safety practitioners, covering a wide range of up-to-date public safety initiatives; establishing and administering an accreditation process; and recognizing professional excellence.



LEGO City Hall By: Trevor Matherne

Trevor designed this amazing model of City Hall out of Legos for Heart of Biddeford's 2019 Lego Contest! It includes almost every detail of the building down to the unique benches outside. Great work!

